

Carlisle Conservation Commission

Minutes
3/22/12
revised 4/12/12

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Jenifer Bush (arrived at 7:35 PM), Kelly Guarino (arrived at 7:35 PM), Lee Tatistcheff and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present.

7:33 – 8:00 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending Business

Emergency Certification: 142 Russell St., installation of a dry well – Willard reported that the water softener system at this address is discharging into the septic system. The Board of Health wanted the discharge to go to a dry well, which is consistent with Title 5 of the state sanitary code. According to Willard the proposed dry well is located far upgradient from Bordering Vegetated Wetlands; Willard did not think filing a Determination of Applicability was necessary. Guarino moved to issue an Emergency Certification to the property owner, Laura Foley, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor.

Land Use permit: Foss Farm – Brownrigg requested a permit for him and his wife D'Ann to lead an annual Woodcock Walk at Foss Farm the evening of April 14, rain date April 15. Brown moved to issue the permit, Ascolillo seconded, and all voted in favor.

Butterfly-weed and milkweed protection strategies - Sally Zielinski, Carlisle Mosquito reporter and botanist, was present for the discussion. Last summer, Liz Loutrel discovered a cluster of butterfly-weed (a milkweed) blooming at Foss Farm. Zielinski contacted Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and found that this plant is on their "Watch List". The plant is not considered a rare species, but is uncommon, and NHESP encourages people to send reports when it is found. Zielinski submitted a detailed report to NHESP, and suggested ways to protect it this year. The area where the plant is growing is sometimes used for parking during equestrian events. Zielinski's husband Bob volunteered to mow around the plant with a hand mower before April 15. Burn suggested placing stakes around the plant prior to public events. Tatistcheff suggested the area be roped off, and offered to install the stakes. Guarino suggested placing a sign near the plant, but Zielinski had consulted Bryan Connolly, State Botanist, who recommended not drawing attention to it. Bush suggested putting up a metal post with a bird nest box near the plant. After discussion, it was decided that Bob Zielinski will do the initial mowing this spring, and Tatistcheff will put stakes around the plant. Jack O'Connor offered to mow the area around the plant during the spring and summer as part of his community garden mowing.

7:50 – 8:00 PM Matthew Gorecki: Potential Eagle Scout Project, installation of a new trail at Foss Farm.

Boy Scout Matthew Gorecki proposed to clear a new trail at Foss Farm in partial fulfillment of the Eagle Scout requirements. Gorecki said that the Trails Committee has already flagged the

trail, which will start near the intersection of Bedford Rd. and River Rd. He and other scouts will remove saplings and fallen branches from the trail, which will be six feet wide with ten feet overhead clearance to accommodate people on horses. Bush asked how the scouts will remove the saplings, and Gorecki said that they will use loppers. There will be several adults present, and there will be a first aid kit on site. Guarino suggested that Gorecki contact some of the neighbors, who might also be willing to help. Willard suggested that Gorecki also attend the next Land Stewardship Committee meeting to explain his project. Guarino moved to issue a Land Use permit for the trail, Tatistscheff seconded, and all voted in favor. Sally Zielinski asked when the trail will be installed, and Gorecki said that it will probably be the first week of May. Burn signed a Certificate of Liability Insurance and Land Use Permit provided by John Gorecki, the applicant's father.

8:00 – 8:15 PM Notice of Intent. Applicant: John Supple; Project Location: 111 Sunset Rd.; Project Description: Construction of a deck, an attached garage, expanded driveway, and associated grading.

Supple described the project to the commission. Bush asked if Supple had considered using a material with pervious surface for the driveway, and Supple said he had not. Willard suggested that an infiltration trench be added at the end of the driveway where runoff will exit and go down a steep slope to the wetlands. Supple said that adding a trench would not be a problem. Willard noted that Supple will have to present his plan to the Zoning Board of Appeals, since this is a non-conforming house lot. Burn suggested that the applicant would not need to return to ConsCom unless the ZBA hearing resulted in modifications that would enlarge the construction footprint. After discussion, Bush moved to close the public hearing, Guarino seconded, and all voted in favor. Ascolillo moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions, with two Special Conditions: (1) an infiltration trench will be installed at the end of the driveway, as shown on the plan of record and (2) the applicant will return to ConsCom if the ZBA hearing results in a larger impervious area. Brown seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

8:15 – 8:30 PM Dick Shohet: Towle Field Agricultural Agreement

Dick Shohet and Kevin Brown of Mill Iron Farm were present. Shohet reported that he had already done one "short cropping" at Towle Field today, and that he was "excited" about this project. He added that Jack O'Connor, who has mowed the field in years past, has been very cooperative. Shohet mowed an area on the east side of the main field that he and Kevin Brown had staked on March 9; O'Connor and Brownrigg were present for the staking. Shohet also mowed part of the field further north of the main field, and part of the west field, since Brownrigg had told him earlier that these areas had not been used for nesting by bobolinks. Shohet will use a heavier mower to cut closer to the stone walls.

Turning to the license agreement, Guarino suggested removing item 6 of Exhibit A, which stipulates planting of a cover crop including legumes. Bush asked Shohet if he planned to use lime on the field and Shohet said that he does not, since he is not trying to grow legumes and does not have the equipment to spread the lime. O'Connor, present in the audience, suggested that a map be marked showing the areas which Shohet will mow. O'Connor marked a Towle Field sketch map provided by Willard. Guarino suggested that the Agricultural Agreement refer

to this or a similar map. Brownrigg asked Shohet how many times the areas would be mowed, and Shohet said it would depend on the height of the grass; he said that he would mow when the height was 4-5 inches. Brownrigg asked if Shohet planned to use these additional cuttings, and Shohet said they would be difficult to collect as hay, and so would be left on the field.

Guarino moved to issue an Agricultural Agreement to Shohet and Brown of Mill Iron Farm, with the following modifications: (1) Item 2 (which refers to submitting soil samples for testing) and Item 6 of Exhibit A will be removed; (2) The agreement will reference a map of Towle Field of the type sketched by O'Connor showing those areas subject to the Agricultural Agreement. Tatistscheff seconded the motion, and all voted in favor except Bush, who abstained.

8:30 – 9:15 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending Business, continued

Cranberry Bog Coordination Committee – Guarino reported that Selectman John Gorecki has contacted Attorney Frank DiLuna, who will write a letter to the Chelmsford Water District stating Carlisle's concerns regarding the proposed wells in Chelmsford.

Elliott Project update – Willard reported that Ascolillo, who is also chair of the Community Preservation Committee, will give Willard the final warrant article for request of CPA funds for the Elliott property. According to Willard, the requested funds will be for the purchase of a conservation restriction. Christa Collins of Sudbury Valley Trustees had contacted three appraisers, and Willard selected the lowest bid. Willard will send the warrant article to the state for review. Willard said that the article will be on the Board of Selectmen's agenda for April 10, and that a ConsCom member should be present. Burn volunteered to attend the meeting.

Willard said that she received the draft of the Elliott Conservation Restriction and it will be on the agenda for the March 27, 2012 Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee meeting.

Conservation Land signs – Debbie Geltner, co-chair of the Land Stewardship Committee distributed designs for several signs, and cost estimates for these. The signs would be purchased from remaining funds allocated by a Town Meeting vote in 2007. After discussion, Guarino moved to approve the purchase of signs as noted by Geltner, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor.

Abutter Notification form revision – Willard distributed a draft of an abutter notification form, similar to that used by the Weston Conservation Commission. After discussion, the commission agreed that the form was more informative to abutters and also alerted them to issues associated with wetlands. Brownrigg moved to accept the revised Abutter Notification form, Guarino seconded, and all voted in favor.

At 9:30 PM, Brownrigg moved to adjourn the meeting, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.

Minutes approved 5/10/12